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PARADE THE CIRCLE CELEBRATION — ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ORIGINAL CULTURAL FESTIVALS — ROLLS OUT TENTH ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR

More than 35,000 Visitors Expected at All-Day Event Saturday, June 10

CLEVELAND — University Circle Incorporated and the Cleveland Museum of Art present the tenth anniversary **Parade the Circle Celebration** on Saturday, June 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the Parade, sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust, beginning at noon. This *free*, day-long event of brilliant color, creative energy, delicious foods, music and dance performances, and activities for adults and children attracts 1,700 paraders and more than 35,000 visitors to Cleveland's cultural hub — University Circle. This year's Parade celebrates the world's myriad cultures and the blending of artistic influences. Guest artists from around the globe will collaborate with members of Cleveland-area communities to present the most lively and colorful Parade yet. Especially notable is the new arrangement of the Wade Oval Festivities — now called "Circle Village," enhanced by three brilliantly colorful gateways. In the Village, more than 30 University Circle organizations will offer hands-on activities for all ages.

The Parade

Parade the Circle stands apart from most parades — there are no words, logos, motorized vehicles, or live animals (except wheelchairs and assist dogs). This Parade relies solely on artistic expression and creativity, focusing on handmade, exotic costumes and masks, and featuring stiltdancers, dancers on foot, imaginative, human-powered floats and music ensembles galore. "The Parade continues to be a resounding success every year," notes Robin VanLear, Parade artistic director and CMA's coordinator of community arts. "We are grateful for the continued assistance from Metropolitan

(more …)

Bank & Trust, The George Gund Foundation, and other funders who support the Parade. Their ongoing dedication allows the Parade to reach its artistic potential."

VanLear is especially excited about the number of new community groups participating in the Parade — coming from an ever-expanding community base — as well as the impressive line-up of new guest artists who will assist with various outreach and design projects.

Six large puppets (8 feet tall), clothed in flowing blue dresses with Spanish-style hats and painted shawls, will lead the procession. Designed by Robin VanLear with painting by Trinidad textile artist (and first-time CMA guest artist) Nizam Ali, they will seemingly float along the Parade path. Dancers, wearing headdresses that evoke the cord-like foliage of a spider plant, will weave among them, carrying green batiked umbrellas. Stiltdancer Rick Simon, guest artist from Toronto, will form the nucleus of the ensemble. Led by the Parade's chief choreographer, Vivian Vail, the group will be joined by the directors of more than 15 University Circle institutions. The directors will wear multi-colored batik kimonos. All will groove to the music of the Hudson High School steel band.

This year's Parade theme is **Painting Songs, Weaving Rhythms**. "Music, dance, painting, and poetry are not distinct in the natural world," explains VanLear. "So too, the peoples and traditions of the world, born of one source, having developed individual cultures, now enrich each other. Parade the Circle celebrates this jubilant, sometimes syncopated, harmony of arts and cultures."

New Parade participants taking this theme to heart include the New Song Church on the Heights, who will focus on "unity among all people." Four giant stilt-puppets, costumed as angels with brightly-colored, curling hair, will wear masks representing interpretations of humanity. A globe that opens up into a flower is part of the ensemble, as well as a percussion and woodwind section. Children in decorated hats and T-shirts will complete the group.

Rocky River High School will present *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, an ensemble of giant puppets with a medieval, mystical, and mythical appeal. Long-time Parade artist Debbie Apple-Presser will work with students from the Citizens Academy, presenting "Carnival of Animals." Students will create their own costumes and instruments, playing and dancing the samba in the procession.

Other newcomers include the Hispanic community groups "Techo" (Akron); "Esperanza" and "El Barrio" (both west side, Cleveland); Smith Elementary School (Berea); RapArt (youth center, Cleveland Heights); Glenville High School (Glenville neighborhood); and Audubon Middle School (Luke Easter Park neighborhood).

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Guest artists from around the world will take part in the Parade by creating ensembles, serving as technical specialists, and directing outreach programs with various community organizations throughout Cleveland. Veteran Parade artists Félix Diaz and Rosario Fernández (Mexico), stiltdancer Ezra Houser (Canada), and stiltdancer/choreographer Cathy Vigo (Puerto Rico) will be joined by newcomers Nizam Ali (Trinidad), Mr. Imagination (Chicago), and Michael Lee Poy (Canada).

The conclusion to the Parade will feature nine giant puppets, each 10 to 15 feet tall. Wearing Spanish-inspired, flowing painted scarves, the puppets will glide along the Parade route, worked by students from the YARD (Youth at Risk Dancing) from the Cleveland School of the Arts. The finale will be a larger, more dramatic reflection of the opening of the Parade.

Circle Village

New this year is the arrangement on Wade Oval of brightly colored tents that house the creative, hands-on activities presented by more than 30 University Circle institutions. Called the "Circle Village," it will be composed of four quadrants — north, south, east, and west — each featuring a group of institutions collaborating to engage the community in meaningful fun.

Three **boldly colorful gateways**, designed by Cleveland Heights artist Joan Damankos and fabricated by Michael Lee Poy and Vanessa North, will mark the main entrances to the Circle Village festivities. Constructed of red scaffolding, bamboo, nylon, aluminum, and plastic, each Circle Village gateway is 20-30 feet in height, with "sunburst" archways and vibrant fluttering spirals, garlands, streamers, and flags. Inspired by the spirit of the day, these kinetic, whimsical gateways beckon to the crowd and add to the creative and lively atmosphere in the Circle Village.

In the Village, dance performances accompanied by live music are the featured attractions. The Dayton-based dance troupe *Rhythm in Shoes* fuses traditional and contemporary dance and music to create a contagious beat, and is appearing at the event for the first time. The afternoon's schedule also includes veteran modern dance ensembles *The Dance/Theatre Collective, The Repertory Project*, and *SAFMOD*. Continuous music performances feature regionally acclaimed groups, including the Latin band *Sammy De Leon Y Su Orquesta* with *HispAna Dance Group*, and the *Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band* with the *Shalhevet Folk Dancers*.

Cleveland-area restaurants will present a variety of delicious foods. Newcomers include The Mustard Seed Market and Café, and Shtick's Vegetarian Kitchen. They will join popular restaurants and caterers from years past: Captain Tony's Pizza, Celebrations by Aunt Elaine, Hot Sauce

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Williams, Java Express, Mi Pueblo Mexican Restaurant, Pearl of the Orient, Pierre's Ice Cream, Soul Vegetarian Central Carryout, and University Circle Arabica.

Activities for all ages will be presented by more than 30 University Circle organizations. For example, *Come to Your Senses*, is a collaboration by The Cleveland Orchestra, The Health Museum of Cleveland, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center, and the Cleveland Music School Settlement. (See complete list of activities in the Circle Village fact sheet).

University Circle Incorporated and the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine (OCPM) will collaborate on an activity — a teaser for the "CircleWalk" and CircleBike" paths to be implemented soon in the University Circle area. Humanlike figures (designed by local artists Diane Goldthwait and Debra Wuliger) constructed out of Dayglo-painted packing tape will entice visitors to participate in a game of Circle trivia, or add their "tracks" to a community collage. OCPM students will help children "put their best foot forward" with *The Mystery of the Pink Feet* puppet show.

"The 'Circle Village' will give visitors a chance to experience our institutions and this very special place in a delightful way. We think the village format will bring new energy to this popular event," notes UCI Director of Public Relations Whitney Bohan.

Parking

Parking is available for $7 at these locations: Severance Hall parking garage (enter off East Boulevard), the surface lot and parking garage at Ford Drive and Euclid Avenue, and the Cornell Road garage at University Hospitals of Cleveland. Parking on side streets is available throughout the area. The Parade route will be closed to traffic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

* * *

Those interested in participating in the Parade should contact the CMA's community arts office at (216) 421-7340, ext. 483. For questions about the Circle Village, contact UCI at (216) 707-5020.

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Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Circle Village is coordinated by University Circle Incorporated.

Parade the Circle Celebration is sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust with generous support from The George Gund Foundation. Additional support comes from the Ohio Arts Council and The Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. Special thanks to Charlie's Fabrics, Realty One, and Cleveland Public Power. Promotional support is provided by The Plain Dealer, 89.7 WKSU, Mix 106.5, and WKYC Channel 3.

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FACT SHEET FOR
PARADE THE CIRCLE CELEBRATION

What: **Parade the Circle Celebration** features an annual community arts parade that relies solely on artistic expression, omitting the use of words, logos, motorized vehicles, or live animals (wheelchairs and assist dogs okay). Members of Cleveland-area communities collaborate with Cleveland artists and guest artists from around the world to create their own imaginative floats, costumes, and masks during Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) public workshops or at other specified locations. Music and movement are integrated into the ensembles.

When: Saturday, June 10, 2000. The Parade begins from the CMA parking lot at noon. Parade the Circle Celebration, which features continuous music and dance performances, family activities, and a delicious array of foods, begins at 11 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m.

Where: Around University Circle's Wade Oval Green in Cleveland, Ohio.

Parade Route: Beginning at noon, the Parade will exit the CMA parking lot and turn right, winding its way counterclockwise around the Oval, passing the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Western Reserve Historical Society and Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Returning to the CMA driveway, the Parade will disperse on the Wade Oval Green.

Parade Theme: **Painting Songs, Weaving Rhythms** is the year 2000 Parade theme. "Music, dance, painting, and poetry are not distinct in the natural world, explains Robin VanLear, Parade artistic director and CMA's coordinator of community arts. "So too, the peoples and traditions of the world, born of one source, having developed individual cultures, now enrich each other. Parade the Circle celebrates this jubilant, sometimes syncopated, harmony of arts and cultures."

Parade History: VanLear, after serving as the artistic director for the *Summer Solstice Celebration* in Santa Barbara, California, came to CMA and organized the first Parade the Circle Celebration 10 years ago, in 1990. It has grown from 100 participants and 1,000 spectators to an event including more than 1,700 paraders and more than 35,000 spectators.

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Guest Artists: **Parade the Circle Celebration** will feature three new guest artists, internationally acclaimed in the 'celebration arts,' who will work with various outreach groups to create Parade ensembles: Mr. Imagination (Chicago), who works extensively with found objects such as bottlecaps, nails, and discarded sandstone to create sculptural art; Michael Lee Poy (Montreal), whose Trinidadian heritage inspires his concentration in African-American and Caribbean art and architecture; and textile painter Nizam Ali (Trinidad), who will paint the flamboyant costumes for the giant puppets in the Parade's dramatic opening and finale. Returning guest artists, also working with outreach groups, are visual and performance artists Félix Diaz and Rosario Fernández of Baja California, Mexico (professional puppeteers); stiltdancer and choreographer Cathy Vigo of San Juan, Puerto Rico; and stiltdancers Ezra Houser, Rick Simon, and Brad Harley of Toronto, Canada.

Posters & T-Shirts: The 2000 Parade the Circle Celebration commemorative posters and T-shirts, designed by Story Rhinehart, will be sold at the event.

Organizers: Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Circle Village is coordinated by University Circle Incorporated.

Sponsors: The Parade the Circle Celebration is sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust with generous support from The George Gund Foundation. Additional support comes from the Ohio Arts Council and The Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. Special thanks to Charlie's Fabrics, Realty One, and Cleveland Public Power. Promotional support is provided by *The Plain Dealer*, 89.7 WKSU, Mix 106.5, and WKYC Channel 3.

Media Contact: Stacie Leatherman, (216) 421-7340, ext. 265; leatherm@cma-oh.org.

See enclosed news release, additional fact sheet, artist biographies, and map for more information.

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ABOUT THE CIRCLE VILLAGE GATEWAY ARTIST

Joan Damankos
Joan Damankos, an artist from Cleveland Heights, has been included in many regional and national exhibitions. Her popular 1991 installation at CMA, *The Way of Pervading Unity*, was created as part of the museum's 75th anniversary celebration. A two-foot wide strip of reflective silver mylar, it stretched from the museum's south doors, across the lagoon, and to Euclid Avenue. Ms. Damankos' tall grass maze installation in the outdoor courtyard was part of CMA's *Invitational 1994*.

ABOUT THE PARADE GUEST ARTISTS
(alphabetically)

Nizam Ali*
Nizam Ali, 32, of Trinidad, is a textile artist who has done screen painting, fabric painting, construction, and decoration of individual costumes for the past 12 years. His projects include the Miss Universe Pageant 2000, opening ceremonies at the Atlanta and Barcelona Olympics, the 1994 World Cup, and France Independence Day Ceremony in Paris (1998). From 1995 to the present, Ali has been on the Yaa Asantewaa Carnival Committee, where he designed carnival band presentations and costumes for the opening of the Millenium Dome ceremony in London.

Félix Diaz and Rosario Fernández
Félix Diaz and Rosario Fernández, both 39, are visual and performance artists from Baja California, Mexico. They are accomplished puppeteers and have participated in numerous puppet theater and music workshops. Diaz and Fernández created the puppet theater company *Planeta Azul* and the musical group *Colibri* in the early 1980s. Living and working together for the past 18 years, they have participated in several international puppetry festivals, including the *San Diego International Children's Festival* and *Teatre Ambulant Festival* in Barcelona, Spain. They were featured artists at the *Puppeteers of America National Festival* in Toledo, Ohio.

Ezra Houser
Toronto, Ontario-based Ezra Houser, 24, is a pioneering member of *Swizzlestick Theatre*, founded to bring the Afro-Caribbean tradition of the Moko Jumbie stiltwalker/dancer to North America. He is also affiliated with *Shadowlands Theatre*, whose Brad Harley and Rick Simon launched Cleveland's Parade the Circle stiltdancing program eight years ago.

Mr. Imagination*
Mr. Imagination (Gregory Warmack), 52, is a prolific Chicago-based artist known for his creative sculptural compositions using found materials. Beginning as a neighborhood legend in Chicago's South Side, Mr. Imagination has long conducted workshops, especially for children, teaching sandstone carving and the artistic uses of discarded materials such as bottlecaps, bobby pins, brooms,

(more …)

and paintbrushes. Mr. Imagination's work can be found in public and private collections throughout the world.

Michael Lee Poy*
Michael Lee Poy, age 34, of Montreal, is a graduate of the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Presently enrolled in the graduate program at Yale's School of Architecture, Poy draws artistic inspiration from his Trinidadian heritage to create contemporary African American/Caribbean art and architecture. His clients have included Richard Dreyfuss and Steven Spielberg. His installation, *Eden*, was featured last winter at an exhibition in the Brooklyn Public Library. A participant in many group exhibitions in Brooklyn and Manhattan galleries, he was recently awarded a grant by the Brooklyn Arts Council to continue his work.

Cathy Vigo
Cathy Vigo, 32, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is a professional dancer, performer, stiltdancer, and actress. Vigo was a member of *Ballet Concerto de Puerto Rico* (1983-1984) and *Ballet de San Juan* (1985-1987). In Puerto Rico, she has worked as a ballet teacher in several different academies and seminars, including her own *Ballet Danza* from 1994 to the present. Vigo has also danced in *IV Encounter of Modern Dance* and in many modern and experimental dance productions in Puerto Rico. She has worked with such well-known Puerto Rican choreographers as Gloria Llompart, María Calisaya, Waldo Gonzalez, Awilda Sterling, Oscar Mestey, Petra Bravo, and Rafael Delgado. She was a full-time artist with *Bread & Puppet Theater* in Vermont (1991-1993), touring to South Korea, Colombia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Italy, Scotland, Canada, and the U.S. She is married to previous Parade guest artist **Pedro Adorno**.

ABOUT THE PARADE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Robin VanLear

Robin VanLear, 51, of Cleveland Heights, the community arts coordinator of the Cleveland Museum of Art, is the Parade's artistic director. VanLear created the first Parade the Circle in 1990, after serving as artistic director for the *Summer Solstice Celebration* in Santa Barbara, California. In 1984, she received her Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture with an emphasis on performance art and sculpture from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Since then, VanLear has served as an instructor on sculpture techniques at the Cleveland Institute of Art and as a drawing instructor at Santa Barbara City College. She has lectured extensively and has served as artist-in-residence at several schools and art institutions. VanLear has created art performances and installations throughout the Cleveland area. She co-created and directed the *Rockin' in the Streets* parade for the opening of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; co-designed the set, costumes and props for *An Aesop Odyssey*, presented by the Cleveland Opera on Tour (1997); and co-designed the giant puppets and set for *Peter and the Wolf* (1997) and *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1998) for the Cleveland Orchestra.

* New to Parade the Circle this year.

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FACT SHEET FOR
CIRCLE VILLAGE

What: The Circle Village festivities take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wade Oval Green as part of **Parade the Circle Celebration**. Three boldly colorful gateways, designed by Cleveland Heights artist Joan Damankos and fabricated by Michael Lee Poy and Vanessa North, will mark the main entrances to the Circle Village festivities. Each of the four quads — north, south, east, and west — will feature a group of institutions working together to engage the community in various fun activities. In addition, visitors can enjoy continuous music and dance performances on three stages. A tantalizing selection of food will be available from a dozen local restaurants and caterers.

When: Saturday, June 10, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: On Wade Oval Green, in the heart of University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio.

Entertainment:

Stage 1	**11 a.m. and 1 p.m.**	Sammy De Leon Y Su Orquesta and HispAna Dance Group
	2:30 p.m.	Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band and Shalhevet Folk Dancers
	3 p.m.	Rhythm in Shoes
Stage 2	**11 a.m.**	Cleveland Music School Settlement Jazz Orchestra
	1 p.m.	The Dance/Theatre Collective
	2 p.m.	The Repertory Project
	3 p.m.	SAFMOD
On the Grass	**1:30 p.m.**	Mellow Harps
	2:30 p.m.	Iroko Drum and Dance Society

Activities: ***North Quad***

Colorful Sound Sculpture

Artists Archives of the Western Reserve
Cleveland Office for UNICEF
Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art
The Sculpture Center
Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland

(more …)

Shake, Rattle and GROW!	The Cleveland Institute of Art The Cleveland Institute of Music Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Shaker Historical Society
South Quad	
Heart of the Circle	American Heart Association
Celebrating Healthy Smiles	Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry
All The World's A Stage	The Cleveland Play House
Banners for the Bard	Cleveland Shakespeare Festival
Art Makes It Possible Through Music, Rhythm and Dance!	Karamu House
Put Your Best Foot Forward on the CircleWalk	Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine/Cleveland Foot & Ankle Clinic University Circle Incorporated
Puppetry	Puppetry Guild of Northeastern Ohio
Decorate the Hospital I.D. Bracelet	University Hospitals of Cleveland Auxiliary Committee and Rainbow Babies and Childrens Hospital
Storytelling	Western Reserve Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (WRAPPS)
East Quad	
Come To Your Senses	Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center The Cleveland Museum of Art Cleveland Music School Settlement The Cleveland Orchestra The Health Museum of Cleveland
Sensory Sensations	Kindercare's University Hospitals' Child Development Center
Blindfold Golf	Cleveland Sight Center
Tattoo Parlor	Metropolitan Bank & Trust
West Quad	
Africa: A Kaleidoscope of Diversity	African American Museum The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Keep Cleveland Kids Connected	Children's Museum of Cleveland
Pressed Plant Cards	Cleveland Botanical Garden Judson Retirement Community
Dead Giveaway	Lake View Cemetery Western Reserve Historical Society

(more ...)

Face Painting! Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland

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